

~~70000000~~ CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

COUNTRY

Egypt/Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 18 May 1948

SUBJECT

**Yugoslav Legation Pressure for
Repatriation of Yugoslavs in Egypt**

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. Early in March 1948 the Yugoslav Legation (in conjunction with the Polish Legation) sent a note to the Egyptian Government inviting the latter's cooperation in expediting the repatriation of Yugoslav and Polish military refugees to their respective countries. Since virtually all of those who still remain in Egypt do so because of opposition to the present regimes in their homelands, they are deeply concerned lest the Egyptian Government compel them to leave Egypt. This would presumably not affect immediately those Yugoslav officers who are still serving with the British Forces in the Canal Area, nor those quartered at al-Shatt camp under the auspices of the I.R.O. It would, however, make things difficult for those rightist Yugoslavs who have secured employment in Egypt and are now "on their own" in Cairo, Alexandria, and Port Said.
2. The I.R.O., in accordance with its policy, has provided the refugees at al-Shatt with propaganda supplied by the present governments of their homelands, urging them to return home. The present director of I.R.O. for the Middle East, Brigadier Maurice Stanley Lush, a British officer, has stated, however, that camp authorities do not themselves urge the refugees to be repatriated. Since many of the expatriates have been vocal and active opponents of the present regimes, they feel that only prisons or firing squads await them at home.
3. In late March 1948 the Yugoslav Legation began sending registered letters to all Yugoslav residents of Egypt requesting them to report to the Legation at Cairo without delay. Upon reporting to the Legation, people were asked to fill in and sign forms indicating their approval and support of the present Yugoslav Government. The Legation is also said to have sent a confidential letter to the Egyptian Ministry of Interior requesting assistance in repatriating approximately 2,500 Yugoslav refugees.

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